

April 7, 1975

federal funds to improve the instruction...the instruction of ambulance drivers. Is that what happens?

SENATOR KENNEDY: This is what our hopes are that we will have an opportunity to ask for grants and continue the education programs and even better than we have in the past.

SENATOR MARVEL: Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Dick Lewis.

SENATOR R. LEWIS: Well, Mr. President, maybe I want to speak on a point of personal privilege. I don't know. I have been trying to speak to this bill for 10 minutes, here, but I would like to point out a couple of things that came up in discussion. When the question was asked, what type of a training program are you going to have, the regional medical program has had a grant with the Department of Health that has been in existence for almost a year and the objective here is to unify the various training programs into one comprehensive plan. So we are not talking about a whole gambit of training programs but it will be a uniform program. Secondly, when you are talking about funding this program, it has been funded in the past with federal funds which are presently going through about three levels of administration, the Director of Highway Safety, the Department of Health, the Community Technical College group. Each one has an administrative staff working with this and Senator Barnett and I met with John Sullivan this morning. We are trying to work out a procedure where that they can contract directly with someone with the training program and streamline this and I think there are adequate funds at the time to take care of all the training needs, if we can get less of it into administration and more of it in a training program.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kime.

SENATOR KIME: Mr. Chairman, I have a question of Senator Kennedy. Senator Kennedy, in view of the fact of the vast distance we have up there and no doctors or hospitals for a hundred miles apart, what effect, if any, will this have on any private party, anybody else that might want to transport a sick or injured person from a scene of an accident or from a ranch into a hospital? Is this going to be man...do they have to have one of these trained ambulance drivers or can they...what about that?

SENATOR KENNEDY: Well, there is no question in the desire that everyone shall have the best possible training but, at this time, if you have an ambulance, volunteer ambulance serving in your community, we are certainly interested in seeing that it does keep continuous serving the way they are serving now with the hopes of better improvement and there is a possibility that there will be classes where it is scattered and you do not have an education program set up there now that this Board may set up a program as close as possible so that they will not have to travel so far but we would like to improve all of the personnel in this ambulance service but the big consideration is, that we continue giving the people the service they are getting now and even better service, if possible, so my question